

## REMARKS

Claims 23-102 are pending in the application, claims 1-22 having been canceled. New claims 103-113 have been added. Further examination and reconsideration respectfully are requested.

### *Explanation of Applicants' Amendment*

Applicant has amended claims 52-53, 57 and 62-63 to correct possible antecedent basis problems due to minor inconsistencies in the use of certain terms. The limitations of these claims have not been narrowed either expressly or implicitly in any respect.

New claims 103-113 have been added, and are fully supported by the specification as filed; see, for example, page 7, line 18 through page 8, line 5. Entry of the new claims respectfully is requested.

### *Applicant's Statement Making Interview of Record*

On Monday, May 16, 2005, the undersigned interviewed with Examiner Sotomayor. Also participating in the interview were two employees of the assignee, Mr. Peter Moller-Jensen, who is the named inventor, and Mr. Jesper Holst. The examiner's courtesy in granting the interview and throughout the interview itself is noted with appreciation.

Applicant reviewed independent claims 23, 61 and 103 (new) with respect to the system shown in Figure 2, independent claim 42 with respect to data fusion and the functional block diagram shown in Figure 8C, and independent claims 77 and 90 with respect to correction for ship motion as shown in Figures 9A, 9B and 9C. Applicant also showed to the examiner an image of an actual sensor unit as mounted on an offshore oil platform. Applicant pointed out that the invention as claimed in claims 23, 61 and 103 is particularly advantageous not only for detecting an oil spill and triggering an alarm within an area monitored by the oil spill sensors (see page 7, lines 13-14) so that on-site personnel can take appropriate action, but also for reporting incidents to authorities away from the monitored area for environmental compliance purposes (see page 7, lines 15-

16). Another advantage of the system is that it is capable of providing near real-time data at a low cost of operation (see page 21, lines 17-18), especially as compared with aircraft and satellite systems.

Applicant briefly compared independent claims 23, 61 and 103, independent claim 42, and independent claims 77 and 90 with the disclosures of (a) the patents previously applied by the examiner and (b) the references cited in the International Search Report, pointing out many differences therebetween. Specifically, applicant discussed US Patent No. 5,633,644 issued to Schussler et al., US Patent No. 5,532,679 issued to Baxter Jr., US Patent No. 5,132,686 issued to Witte, US Patent No. 4,933,678 issued to Tennyson, German Published Application DE 4203452A1 by applicant Deutsche Aerospace AG, and the publication by Zhifu et al.

No agreement was reached regarding the claims.

#### *Conclusion*

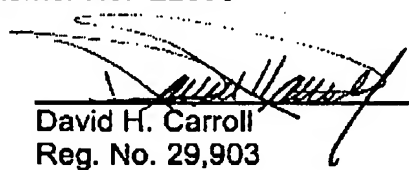
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and further in view of the remarks previously of record, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact the undersigned at (952) 253-4135.

Respectfully submitted,

Altera Law Group, LLC  
Customer No. 22865

Date: May 18, 2005

By:

  
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David H. Carroll  
Reg. No. 29,903  
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